

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Elsie Arntzen, on January 23, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 172 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Elsie Arntzen, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Wayne Stahl, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Brady Wiseman, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Duane Ankney (R)  
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Rep. Bob Ebinger (D)  
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)  
Rep. Betsy Hands (D)  
Rep. Pat Ingraham (R)  
Rep. Hal Jacobson (D)  
Rep. William J. Jones (R)  
Rep. Deborah Kottel (D)  
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)  
Rep. Jesse O'Hara (R)  
Rep. Diane Sands (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** Rep. Bill Nooney (R)

**Staff Present:** Sonja Lee, Legislative Branch  
Pam Schindler, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 235, HB 253, HB 265, 1/18/2007  
Executive Action: HB 49

**HEARING ON HB 235**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:03:08 Rep. Ernie Dutton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 235, Business improvement district law.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:08:12 Charles Brooks, City of Billings, Billings Area Chamber of Commerce, Yellowstone Board of Counties

00:14:00 Greg Krueger, Downtown Billings Partnership, International Downtown Association

00:18:14 Steve Wahrlich, President, Billings Downtown Improvement District, Yellowstone Hotel Association

00:20:26 Barbara Neilan, President, Missoula Convention and Visitors Bureau

00:23:11 John Brewer, President and CEO, Billings Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau

00:25:28 Jay Robison, Missoula Convention and Tourism Bureau,

00:27:21 Chris Erbin, Hotelier and Restaurateur, Billings

00:29:01 Sandra Hawke, Director, Metro-Park, Billings

00:31:45 Bruce MacIntyre, Director, Government Affairs, Billings Chamber of Commerce

[EXHIBIT\(loh15a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(loh15a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(loh15a03\)](#)

00:34:50 Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commissioner

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:37:01 Riley Johnson, Enterprise Rent-a-Car

[EXHIBIT\(loh15a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(loh15a05\)](#)

00:41:51 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:45:08 Rep. Ebinger

00:45:48 Mr. Krueger

00:48:30 Rep. Stahl

00:48:53 Mr. Krueger

00:51:01 Rep. Ingraham

00:51:26 Mr. Krueger

00:53:13 Rep. Stahl

00:53:42 Mr. Brewer

00:56:01 Rep. Wiseman

00:56:41 Mr. Krueger  
00:57:42 Rep. Wiseman  
00:58:11 Mr. Wahrlich  
00:59:36 Rep. Jones  
01:00:10 Rep. Dutton  
01:00:56 Mr. Krueger  
01:03:23 Rep. Wiseman  
01:03:51 Mr. Wahrlich

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:04:39 Rep. Dutton  
  
01:05:55 Break  
01:10:40 Reconvene

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**HEARING ON HB 265**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:11:00 Rep. Bob Ebinger (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 265, Clarify vote requirements for planning board.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:12:42 Bob Jovik, Attorney  
01:16:20 Tara DePuy, Civil Attorney, Park County  
01:19:09 John Prinkki, President, Montana Association of Counties, Carbon County Commissioner

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:21:14 Rep. Ebinger

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**HEARING ON HB 253**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:21:44 Rep. John (Jack) Ross (R), HD 60, opened the hearing on HB 253, Eliminate county election requirement for construction of certain bridges.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:23:13 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of Counties

**EXHIBIT (loh15a06)**

01:24:36 Richard Miller, Road Manager, Beaverhead County

01:26:16 Eric Griffin, Director Public Works, Lewis and Clark County, President, county Road Workers Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:27:11 Rep. Ross

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 49**

(Reps. Ingraham, Nooney and Sands absent from the room.)

01:28:08 Chairman Arntzen

01:29:13 Sonja Lee, Legislative Staffer

01:30:10 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Wiseman moved **TO RECONSIDER HB 49**. Motion carried 13-0 by voice vote.  
\_\_\_\_\_(Present and voting only.)

01:30:33 Rep. Kottel

**Discussion:**

01:30:57\_\_Rep. Wiseman

01:33:49 **Motion:** Rep. Kottel moved that **HB 49 BE AMENDED**.  
**EXHIBIT (loh15a07)**

**Discussion:**

01:34:55\_\_Rep. Kottel

01:45:30 **Vote:** Motion that **HB 49 BE AMENDED** carried 13-3 by roll call vote with Reps. Ankney, Jacobson, and Jones voting no. (Reps. Ingraham, Nooney and Sands voted by proxy.)

01:46:22 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Jacobson moved that **HB 49 DO PASS AS AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. (Reps. Ingraham, Nooney and Sands voted by proxy.)

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:47 P.M.

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REP. ELSIE ARNTZEN, Chairman

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PAM SCHINDLER, Secretary

EA/ps

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([loh15aad.pdf](#))**